(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose and the steps taken for the implementation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Units under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are set up by individual entrepreneurs in various parts of the country, including the north Eastern Region (NER) and Assam. Government provides the admissible financial assistance for this purpose.

(b) and (c) Details of units set up by and Government assistance provided to entrepreneurs under the REGP in the NER and in Assam respectively, during the last three years, are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of units set up under REGP		Margin money assistance provide (Rs. lakh)	
		Assam	NER (including Sikkim)	Assam	NER (including Sikkim)
1.	2002-03	559	1185	375.68	1054.99
2.	2003-04	1223	1952	806.83	1552.57
3.	2004-05	1658	2634	1277.42	2455.00

The margin money assistance in the NER is 30 per cent of the project cost for projects upto Rs. 10 lakh, as against 25 per cent for the rest of the country.

For popularising REGP among the potential rural entrepreneurs, workshops, awareness camps and exhibitions are regularly organized by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The target for such workshops, awareness camps and exhibitions during 2005-06 is 270.

Livelihood from ARIs

1111. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population earning livelihood from Agriculture and Agro Industries in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government are making additional efforts to promote agro based industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) According to the Population Census-2001, 23.6 per cent of the total population of the country and 23.8 per cent of the population of Tamil Nadu are earning livelihood from agriculture and allied activities.

(b) and (c) In order to promote agro based industries, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the country through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under the REGP, margin money assistance is given by the Government for setting up agro and rural industries. So far 209705 projects have been set up under the REGP, generating 28.05 lakh emploment opportunities in the country. The target for the Tenth Plan is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.5 million persons.

For popularizing REGP among the potential rural entrepreneurs, workshops, awareness camps and exhibitions for regularly organized by the KVIC. The target for such workshops, awareness camps and exhibitions during 2005-06 is 270.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provides financial assistance for establishment and modernization of Food Processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for Research and Development etc.

Enriched uranium from Non-NSG countries

1112. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in pursuit for enriched uranium and transfer of dual use technologies for nuclear programme;

(b) whether this would require a considerable period of time because of the existing agreement among the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the existing legislation of some of the member countries;

(c) if so, whether country is looking for enriched uranium from non-NSG countries; and

(d) whether mandatory inspection by IAEA suppliers of technologies of fissile material insist on the basis of extant agreements and legislations which would adversely affect our fast breeder reactor project which is a top priority in terms of autonomy in development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Government is exploring acqui-